



**Ted Strickland**, Governor  
**Eric D. Fingerhut**, Chancellor

## Board of Regents

University System of Ohio

September 29, 2010

Major General Charles F. Bolden, USMC (ret.)  
Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
300 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20546-0002

Dear Gen. Bolden:

This correspondence confirms my enthusiastic support for the interagency transfer of a shuttle orbiter and robotic arm for The National Museum of the United States Air Force in Ohio, at the request of Air Force Secretary, Michael B. Donley.

With 1.3 million visitors in 2009, The National Museum of the United States Air Force (NMUSAF) is one of the most visited sites in Ohio and continues to increase in attendance numbers each year. More importantly, it is an exceptional learning laboratory with over 145,000 on-site student lessons taught throughout last year. The current exhibition of space artifacts and spacecrafts now offers a great educational experience. Plans to expand this gallery will certainly increase the museum's educational impact. Placement at the NMUSAF of the shuttle orbiter and robotic arm will be a catalyst for significantly higher interest in science and technology to the multitude of visitors from not only Ohio, but the entire Midwest region.

Our state is prepared to support the NMUSAF transformation of these historical assets into a meaningful educational experience. Locating the orbiter and robotic arm in Ohio will enhance the already strong link among our universities, the NASA Glenn Research Center and the Air Force, building upon an unprecedented effort in to create Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education opportunities that are critical to citizens competing in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric D. Fingerhut".

Eric D. Fingerhut  
Chancellor